

Heber Rejects Tabernacle Lease Offer

HEBER CITY — A proposal from the First Presidency, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, to lease Wasatch Stake Tabernacle to Heber City, has been turned down by city fathers.

Councilmen countered with a proposal to buy outright and obtain title to the historic building but accept Church restrictions on maintenance and use of the building.

Wasatch Stake Pres. J. Harold Call and his first counselor Ralph Carlile, made the lease proposal at the council's regular meeting in the city hall Tuesday night.

The proposal involved turning over the tabernacle and grounds to Heber City for 50 years with an option to renew the agreement for another 50 years after expiration of the first period. The agreement also called for

Church control over maintenance and use of the buildings to "meet Church standards."

Heber City Mayor Raymond N. Jiacolletti said the city favored a policy wherein it would have title but would also accept Church restrictions concerning maintenance and use.

Mayor Jiacolletti, however, said he doubted the legality of such a lease arrangement.

The famed sandstone tabernacle, dedicated in 1889, was to have been torn down to make way for a new two-ward stake center.

Local citizens and statewide historical groups formed a "Save the Tabernacle Committee," through which a majority of the funds necessary to redeem the building and take it over, according to earlier Church agreement specifications, were pledged.



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Special to The Tribune

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A new center will be built on an alternate site, President Brown said.

About 300 priesthood members were in attendance and they all sustained President David O. McKay's decision, delivered by President Brown.

This final decision came after a year's efforts on the part of many individuals of the community as well as neighboring areas to preserve the historic structure.

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Wasatch Historical Unit to Aid Heber Tabernacle

HEBER CITY (UPI) — The drive to preserve and restore the old Wasatch Stake Tabernacle had new impetus Tuesday following the creation of the Wasatch Historical Society.

Don Barker was named president of the group in a special meeting here Monday night. The organization, a chapter of the Utah Historical Society, will undertake the task of saving the tabernacle, previously slated for demolition.

A brochure has been prepared and is ready for mailing. It was prepared by the "Save the Tabernacle Committee" — forerunner of the historical society.

The brochure will be mailed to 1,125 camp captains of the Daughters of Utah Pioneers, to all historical societies in the state and to all citizens of the county.

Another drive will be made to increase the \$9,000 collected to date.

Friday Night

Tabernacle Fund To Get Park City Play Proceeds

The Salt Lake Playmakers will stage a benefit performance Friday at 8 p. m. in the Silver Wheel Theater at Park City, with proceeds donated to-

ward saving the Heber Tabernacle.

The original old - fashioned play, "The Night Operator," is strictly fiction "though it is based loosely on the recollection of some early Park City people," according to Grace Grether and Josephine Fabian who wrote the book and lyrics.

The benefit performance Friday night for the tabernacle fund is the premier opening. The play will continue through July and August.

This will be the second organized benefit event to raise funds to save the historic and stately Heber Tabernacle from destruction. A recent performance of three prize-winning MIA road shows in the tabernacle itself netted about \$700.

The group spearheading the drive welcomes contributions which may be mailed directly to the Save The Tabernacle Fund, First Security Bank, Heber City. Those in charge pledge such contributions will be held in trust until the outcome of the fight to save the building is determined. If it is not successful, the money will be returned to donors.

The LDS First Presidency has ruled that sufficient money must be raised to purchase another site for a planned stake center. It has been the intention of Stake President Harold Call and his supporters to tear down the tabernacle and build the stake center on the present site. The move has been forestalled several times by a determined civic group which seeks to save it.

The Heber City Council has agreed to take title to the property and be responsible for the grounds and the exterior, with a civic committee being responsible for the interior and use of the structure. Plans are in the making to use it for a combination museum, civic center and civic entertainment facility.